

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 11180 081757Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 AEC-11 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INT-08 L-03

NSC-07 PM-07 SAM-01 SCI-06 SS-20 STR-08 OIC-04 DRC-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: ENERGY: MEETINGS OF OECD OIL COMMITTEE AND
HIGH-LEVEL GROUP (HLG)

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2731 (B) PE/A (74)2(PROV)

(C) DIE/E/PE/74.82

1. SUMMARY. MEETING DATES FOR OIL COMMITTEE'S HLG
(JUNE 10 AT 3 P.M.) AND OIL COMMITTEE (JUNE 11 AT
10:30 A.M.) HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED. AGENDAS
HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND POUCHED WASHINGTON. AMONG AGENDA
ITEMS ARE REPORTS FROM THREE OIL COMMITTEE WORKING
GROUPS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. END SUMMARY

2. FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ITEM ON BOTH AGENDAS CALLS FOR
CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN REPORTS FROM AD HOC GROUPS ON
ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ENERGY
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PAGE 02 OECD P 11180 081757Z

RESOURCES, ON CONSERVING ENERGY AND RESTRAINING DEMAND,

AND ON OIL SHARING. THIS APPARENTLY INCONSISTENT WITH ECG DECISION REPORTED REF (A) THAT AD HOC GROUP REPORTS SHOULD NOT BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO SENIOR OECD BODIES

UNTIL AFTER JUNE 17 ECG MEETING. IN COURSE OF ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE THIS INCONSISTENCY, MISSION WAS INFORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF OECD PERMANENT DELEGATIONS AND OF SECRETARIAT WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT MAY 2-3 ECG MEETING THAT ECG DID NOT IN THE END ACCEPT PROPOSAL TO DELAY CONSIDERATION BY OIL COMMITTEE AND HLG OF AD HOC GROUP REPORTS; THIS REFLECTED IN REVISED VERSION OF ECG/36/PROV. IN MISSION'S VIEW, IN PRINCIPLE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR ECG TO EXAMINE REPORTS BEFORE OIL COMMITTEE AND HLG, BUT AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE THIS UNLESS ECG MEETING CAN BE ADVANCED BEFORE JUNE 10, WHICH APPEARS UNLIKELY. AN ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE OIL COMMITTEE AND HLG MEETINGS A SECOND TIME WOULD MEET WITH STRONG OPPOSITION NOT ONLY FROM SEVERAL OECD MEMBERS WHO DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ECG, BUT PROBABLY FROM SOME ECG MEMBERS, INCLUDING CANADA. AS A RESULT, WANSINK PROBABLY WOULD NOT AGREE TO POSTPONE MEETINGS. MOREOVER, GIVEN NATURE OF AGREEMENT REACHED AT LAST OIL COMMITTEE MEETING (SEE PE/M(74)L), ECG MEMBERS CAN HARDLY ATTEMPT TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF REPORTS AT THESE MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO NEED, OF COURSE, FOR DISCUSSIONS TO RESULT IN POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT ARE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR ECG.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN HLG AND OF OFFICERS OF OIL COMMITTEE AND GENERAL WORKING GROUP ALSO ON AGENDAS. SECRETARIAT SOUNDINGS SO FAR INDICATE GENERAL SUPPORT FOR REELECTION OF WANSINK AS CHAIRMAN OIL COMMITTEE AND HLG. PIGA (ITALY) WILL NOT STAND AGAIN FOR VICE CHAIRMANSHIP OF OIL COMMITTEE. REINFRANK OF SECRETARIAT USING THIS DEVELOPMENT TO ATTEMPT TO BREATHE LIFE INTO IDEA (CONSIDERED BRIEFLY A FEW YEARS AGO AND DROPPED) OF EXPANDING OIL COMMITTEE BUREAU TO INCLUDE U.S., JAPAN, EC (IN PERSON OF CHAIRMAN), AND A NON-EC EUROPEAN MEMBER. ACCORDING TO REINFRANK, JAPAN WILLING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 OECD P 11180 081757Z

CONSIDER THIS FORMULA AND WANSINK NONCOMMITTAL. IN MISSION'S VIEW, THIS WOULD BE THE WRONG TIME TO RAISE SUCH A POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE INSTITUTIONAL ISSUE; IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH REASONABLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT NOW IN PLACE BETWEEN ECG, HLG, AND OIL COMMITTEE AND MIGHT BRING INTO QUESTION COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION OF HLG. OUR VIEW REINFORCED BY POSSIBILITY THAT OECD'S NEW DIRECTOR AND ADVISER TO SEC GEN FOR ENERGY (LANTZKE)

MAY IN RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE PROPOSE SWEEPING CHANGES
IN OECD STRUCTURE FOR DEALING WITH ENERGY, INCLUDING A
NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIL AND ENERGY COMMITTEES. IF
WASHINGTON AGREES, REQUEST MISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO
INFORM REINFRANK THAT IN U.S. VIEW POSSIBILITY OF
ENLARGED BUREAU FOR OIL COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED
AT THIS TIME. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS AS
TO APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED PIGA.
BROWN

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